



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

July 16, 2004

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

During our annual meeting that ended on June 29th of this year, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed unanimously several policy resolutions that are supportive of the principles and program established in the Full-Service Community Schools Act (H.R. 4585) that you introduced earlier this month.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is in full support of this legislation because it represents a new way of thinking about our schools. Schools should be the centers of our community, and be used as a resource and asset for the community. For far too long schools have been underutilized by the community and in part this is due to inaccessibility during after school hours and school vacations.

Today, mayors across the country are taking a more active leadership and involvement role in education in their cities. Several mayors have made it their top priority. In Akron, USCM President and Mayor Donald Plusquellic is providing funding so that all new schools will be joint use schools. Providence Mayor David Cicilline is also working very hard to make sure that a variety of services for which he has responsibility are available to students while they are in school and also accessible to the community.

City hall and the local school system(s) can no longer work separately. Mayors are trying hard to work cooperatively with their city's school system(s) to share in the responsibility for the community's youth. Education is a key cornerstone for insuring a skilled and prepared workforce, economic growth, quality of life, and our nation's future.

H.R. 4585 is a step in that direction and provides an opportunity for the country to create opportunities in cities that enable cooperation and combining of resources for the benefit of the citizens of our nation.

Sincerely,


Tom Cochran
Executive Director